

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00186 311611Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 SY-05 ACDA-10 TRSE-00

/087 W

-----312310Z 006853 /70

R 311411Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1691

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: THE NAIRAC MYSTERY

REF: BELFAST 184

1. CAPTAIN ROBERT NAIRAC, 29, BRITISH ARMY, DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, IN AN UNMARKED VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH TWO-WAY VOICE RADIO AND ARMED WITH A HANDGUN, DISAPPEARED FROM THE PARKING LOT OF A PUB NEAR FORKHILL IN SOUTH ARMAGH ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 14. THE PROVISIONAL IRA CLAIMED TO HAVE QUESTIONED CAPTAIN NAIRAC AND EXECUTED HIM ON LEARNING THAT HE BELONGED TO THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE (SAS). THE ARMY HAS DENIED THAT NAIRAC WAS IN SAS BUT ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD LIAISON DUTIES WITH SAS AND WITH ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY. HIS BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND ALTHOUGH TRACES OF A SHOOTING ASSAULT WERE INVESTIGATED IN A FOREST JUST OVER THE BORDER IN THE REPUBLIC. FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN CHARGED IN NEWRY UNDER COMMON LAW WITH MURDERING NAIRAC IN REPUBLIC AND ONE NORTHERN IRELAND MAN IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED BY GARDA IN DUNDALK ABOUT MURDER.

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2. UNUSUAL FEATURES IN THIS CASE INCLUDE FIRST USE OF LAW PERMITTING TRIAL OF THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIMES ACROSS BORDER, CHARGES IN ABSENCE OF CORPSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH MEN WERE ARRESTED. CONGEN SUSPECTS POLICE RECEIVED INFORMATION.

3. POLICE HAVE ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS AGAINST

TERRORISTS RECENTLY. ARREST RATE IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS AND ARRESTS FOR OLD TERRORIST CRIMES ARE MATCHED BY ARRESTS FOR CRIMES COMMITTED ONLY DAYS OR WEEKS AGO. THERE ALSO A MARKED DIMINUTION OF KILLING AND BOMBING IN PAST FEW WEEKS. POLICE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RETICENT ABOUT METHODS AND SOURCES BUT IT GUESSED FROM SUCH SIGNS AS DECLINE IN VIOLENCE AND CEASEFIRE DECLARED BY ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE LAST WEEKEND THAT INFORMATION IS COMING FROM THE PUBLIC IN UNPRECEDENTED VOLUME.

SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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